

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 DAMASC 08289 021340Z

65

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 IO-13 SSM-03 ACDA-07 OMB-01 EB-07 CU-02

TRSE-00 COME-00 /091 W

----- 084073

P R 021212Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 782

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 8289

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, XF

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT ASAD REITERATES SYRIAN DESIRE FOR MOVEMENT
TOWARD SETTLEMENT WITH ISRAEL

1. IN ONLY INTERVIEW GIVEN U.S. JOURNALIST THUS FAR IN
1976, PRES. ASAD TOLD JOSEPH KRAFT NOV. 29 THAT EFFORTS
SHOULD BE MADE TOWARD REACHING PEACE WITH ISRAEL. ASAD
IMPLICITLY DEFERRED TO PRES. SADAT'S LEADERSHIP ROLE IN
GENERATING PROGRESS ON NEGOTIATING FRONT. HE OBSERVED
THAT SYRIA AND EGYPT HAD OVERCOME RECENT "PHASE OF
DIFFERENCES" AND HAD MOVED TO COORDINATE THEIR POSITIONS.
HE DEFINED AN ARAB-ISARELI PEACE AS "A STATE OF TRANQUILITY
AND STABILITY BASED ON JUSTICE AND THE DISAPPEARANCE OF
ALL FORMS OF AGGRESSION." HE SUPPORTED CONCEPT OF ENDING
STATE OF WAR, BUT CAUTIONED THAT RELATED ISRAELI EXPECTATION
OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 DAMASC 08289 021340Z

AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES WAS OBSTACLE TO PEACE EFFORTS.

2. ASAD INTIMATED THAT SYRO-JORDANIAN RELATIONS MAY DEVELOP INTO "FEDERAL RELATIONSHIP." HOWEVER, HE DENIED SYRIA PLANNED TO INCLUDE PALESTINIAN STATE WITHIN FEDERAL FRAMEWORK. SUCH TALK WAS "PREMATURE" BECAUSE PALESTINA STATE NOT YET ESTABLISHED. HE ASSERTED THAT WEST BANK PALESTINIAN STATE WAS VIABLE PROPOSAL. HE DECLINED DIRECT ANSWERSTO QUESTIONS ON PALESTINIAN INTENTIONS, STATING THESE SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO PALESTINIANS THEMSELVES.

3. CONCERNING LEBANON (REMARKS ON SOUTH LEBANON REPORTED DAMASCUS 8216), ASAD REITERATED HIS INTENTION TO WITHDRAW SYRIAN FORCES FROM LEBANON ONCE INSTITUTIONS RESPONSIVE TO SARKIS'S CENTRAL AUTHORITY REESTABLISHED AND FUNCTIONING. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THIS WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED QUICKLY. HE MADE NO MENTION OF INCLUDING LEBANON IN ANY FUTURE SYRO-JORDANIAN FEDERAL ARRANGEMENT.

4. KRAFT PLANS USE SOME OF ABOVE MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION IN ONE, POSSIBLY TWO, ARTICLES ON SYRIA. REQUEST ITS CONFIDENTIALITY BE PRESERVED UNTIL AFTER HIS DEC. 2 RELEASE DATE.

5. FULL TEXT OF INTERVIEW AS PREPARED BY PRESIDENCY POUCHED DEPARTMENT DECEMBER 2 (DAMASCUS A-65).
MURPHY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PEACE TALKS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DAMASC08289
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760446-0390
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761280/aaaacqws.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <04 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT ASAD REITERATES SYRIAN DESIRE FOR MOVEMENT TOWARD SETTLEMENT WITH ISRAEL
TAGS: PFOR, SY, XF, (ASAD, HAFIZ)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006